(c) whether Government propose to consider making its TV channels as 'pay channels' to generate additional revenue and also at the same time giving the viewers the option to stay out if not interested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that both AIR and DD have always had fiscal deficit, even before they became part of Prasar Bharati. Moreover, during last few years growth in advertising revenue in the country has been very tardy.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that such a proposal is under consideration of Prasar Bharati Board.

(c) The Government does not have any TV Channels Prasar Bharati, a Statutory Autonomous Corporation, has informed that there is no such proposal.

Programmes on Doordarshan

†4591. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programmes are purchased from private sector institutions or got prepared for telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the number of programmes got prepared and purchased separately during the years 1998-99 to 2002-03, year-wise; and

(c) the names of the institutions from which these programmes were got prepared or purchased together with the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Modernisation of the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India

4592. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the office of the Registrar of Newspapers for India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount allocated in the Tenth Plan for modernising the said organisation?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.